



Massachusetts Community Corrections

Drug Testing Protocol

Presented by the Office of Community Corrections



OCC

Produced by
Sam Bellistri
Phyllis Buccio-Notaro
Jonathan Randall



Purpose

- ◆ OCC funds Drug Testing of offenders in accordance with the “Commonwealth’s efforts to stop the abuse of all addictive substances – alcohol and other drugs – and to curtail related criminal activities and social dysfunction. Public safety will be enhanced, because offenders who succeed in treatment are much less likely to re-offend.”*

* Supreme Judicial Court Standards on Substance Abuse, April 28, 1998, Page 5



Goals of Drug Testing

- ◆ To provide mandatory abstinence* for offenders
- ◆ To provide monitoring compliance of court ordered conditions** for offenders
- ◆ To support substance abuse treatment intervention strategies
- ◆ To enhance public safety

* Supreme judicial court standards on substance abuse, April 28, 1998, standard XI

** Supreme judicial court standards on substance abuse, April 28, 1998, standard XII



Drug Testing at Community Corrections Centers

- ◆ Follows American Probation & Parole Association (APPA) Standards
- ◆ Must be ordered in Writing as a Term and Condition of Probation, Parole, or Pre-Release
- ◆ Must use Random Mandatory Scheduling Through Use of the OCC Color Code



APPA's Drug Testing Guidelines and Practices for Adult Probation and Parole Agencies

- ◆ Identifies the major components that should comprise every drug testing policy and procedure operations manual
- ◆ Bureau of Justice Assistance Publication – NCJ 129199



OCC Color Code

- ◆ Uses colors from the Cooper Color Code system used in U. S. law enforcement training for threat assessment

High Risk Testing Category

(Two Colors to Accommodate Volume)



RED

BLACK

Probability of being selected
**two to three times per
week**

Standard Risk Testing Category



BLUE

Probability of being selected
one time per week

Moderate Risk Testing Category

ORANGE



Probability of being selected
two times per month

Low Risk Testing Category

(two colors to accommodate volume)



YELLOW
GREEN

Probability of being selected
one time per month



Color Selection Procedures

- ◆ Supervising Officer Assesses Offender's Testing Risk in accordance with Substance abuse testing order
- ◆ Center Assigns Appropriate Drug Testing Color
- ◆ Offender receives written instructions to call the Center, daily
- ◆ Officer explains collection procedures
- ◆ Officer explains non compliance (positive test, failure to produce sample) responses



Offender Calls the Center, Daily

- ◆ If his/her color is the color to be tested, he/she must report to the Center for testing during the instructed time(s)
- ◆ Drug testing is performed 5 ½ days per week (including holidays), and two evenings



Offender Reports to the Center

1. Picture ID Is verified
2. Assigned Color is verified
3. Testing procedure is explained



Offender Reports to the Center

4. Offender waits in separate designated waiting area
5. Offender initials chain of custody label
6. Offender acknowledges that results will be reported to supervising officer as soon as possible after conclusion of test



Collection - Males

- ◆ Collector (male) instructs offender (male) to wash and dry his hands
- ◆ Collector instructs offender to lift up his shirt
- ◆ Collector “pats down” offender
- ◆ Offender is given collection cup
- ◆ Collector directly observes urine pass into the cup
- ◆ Offender places cap on cup and cup on shelf
- ◆ Offender washes hands



Collection - Females

- ◆ Collector (female) instructs offender (female) to wash and dry her hands
- ◆ Collector instructs offender to lift out her shirt
- ◆ Collector “pats down” offender
- ◆ Offender is given collection cup
- ◆ Collector directly observes urine pass into the cup
- ◆ Offender places cap on cup and cup on shelf
- ◆ Offender washes hands



Chain of Custody

- ◆ Positive ID
- ◆ Collector escorts offender to bathroom
- ◆ Examination and “pat down”
- ◆ Direct observation
- ◆ Container and documents in sight
- ◆ Offender secures cap
- ◆ Offender affixes label on cup
- ◆ Offender signs collection statement
- ◆ Collector and offender are continuously present throughout collection procedures



Confirmation

- ◆ Positive urine samples are stored in separate lab freezer for up to six months
- ◆ If Offender contests positive results, a confirmation test of the urine sample is conducted at a separate lab using the GC/MS* technology

* Gas Chromatography/Mass Spectrometry



Duration of Detectability of Drugs in Urine

- ◆ Interpretation of the duration of detectability of drugs of abuse depends on many factors:
 - ✓ Drug metabolism and half life
 - ✓ Subject's physical condition
 - ✓ Fluid balance and state of hydration
 - ✓ Route and frequency of ingestion



Detectability of Selected Drugs*

◆ Alcohol	8 Hrs	◆ Propoxyphene/ Norproxyphine	6-48 hrs
◆ Amphetamine	48 Hrs	◆ Cannabinoids	
◆ Methamphetamine	48 Hrs	▪ Single use	3 days
◆ Barbiturates		▪ Moderate use (4 x wk)	4 days
▪ Short acting	24 Hrs	▪ Heavy use (daily)	10 days
▪ Intermediate acting	48-72 Hrs	▪ Chronic heavy use	21-27 days
▪ Long acting	7 days/+	◆ Methaqualone	7 days/+
◆ Benzodiazepines	3 days	◆ Phencyclidine (PCP)	8 days
◆ Methadone (approx)	3 days		approximately
◆ Cocaine Metabolites	2-3 days		
◆ Codeine/Morphine	48 Hrs		

* APPA NCJ Page 129



Batch Analysis

Immunoassay Methodology

- ◆ All Community Corrections Centers use Batch Analysis Equipment to efficiently test each urine sample for up to five drugs of abuse
- ◆ Company trained Lab Techs conduct all tests
- ◆ Batch analysis uses computerized “robotic” testing equipment to test up to 60 samples per hour



Essex County Community Corrections Center Laboratory



**First Lab in Massachusetts to
provide a random color code
drug testing system.**



Drugs Tested*

- ◆ Amphetamines (black beauties)
- ◆ THC (marijuana)
- ◆ Cocaine
- ◆ Opiates (heroin)
- ◆ Benzodiazepine (tranquilizers)
- ◆ Barbiturates

* Most commonly tested at centers



Cut Off Levels

- ◆ SAMHSA* (formally NIDA**) Cut off levels are used for reporting positive drug tests

* Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

** National Institute on Drug Abuse

Massachusetts Office of Community Corrections



1 Center Plaza
Mezzanine Level
Boston, MA 02108



OCC Staff List

Tel. 617-725-8161

- ◆ Stephen V. Price, Executive Director
- ◆ Jonathan C. Randall, Deputy Director
- ◆ Kevin Duggan, Community Service Supervisor
- ◆ Phyllis Buccio-Notaro, Program Supervisor
- ◆ Robert Perry, Fiscal Manager
- ◆ Sam Bellistri, Regional Program Manager
- ◆ Pamerson Ifill, Regional Program Manager
- ◆ Jack Quinn, Regional Program Manager
- ◆ Kevin Kearney, Regional Program Manager



Questions for Discussion

- ◆ Failure to produce sample – “bashful bladder syndrome”
- ◆ Attempts to beat the system
- ◆ Field testing devices – Roche Cups
- ◆ Back-up testing devices –slides, cups, saliva tests



Questions for Discussion

- ◆ Why color code is essential for state-wide testing program
- ◆ Integration of OCC color code for probation and parole
- ◆ Prompt agency response for “no shows” and positives is essential
- ◆ Turn around times & “stat” testing